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Hab. apud Insulam Mindanado.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ON THE GENUS SYNGNATHUS.

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ON THE INFLUENCE OF NATIVE MAGNESIA ON THE GERMINATION, VEGETATION, AND FRUCTIFICATION OF VEGETABLES. BY ANGELO ABBENE.

Among the various causes which produce barrenness in lands, has been enumerated the presence of magnesia, because it had been observed that the various magnesian soils are sterile. This opinion has begun to lose credit, since Bergmann, who examined the composition of fertile soils, considered magnesia as forming one of their principal constituents.

Prof. Giobert has performed a number of experiments to inquire into the action of native magnesia, which is found in numerous cultivated soils. In the environs of Castellamonte and of Baldissero, this substance is abundantly diffused in the soils cultivated with great success, and which exhibit a vigorous vegetation. There are many districts in Piedmont and elsewhere, where the bi-carbonate of lime and of magnesia is abundant in the cultivated lands, which produce beautiful plants. Giobert concluded from these experiments; 1st, that native carbonated magnesia is not injurious to the various functions of vegetables; 2nd, that on account of the solubility of magnesia in an excess of carbonic acid this earth can exercise an action analogous to that of lime; 3rd, that a magnesian soil may become fertile when the necessary manure is employed.

From these facts naturally proceeds the conclusion, that if the magnesia was dissolved in an excess of carbonic acid and water, and had entered like the lime into the composition of the sap, it ought to be found in the plants with the potash, lime, oxide of iron, &c. M. Abbene has ascertained this by the analysis of the ashes of plants which had grown in magnesiferous mixtures. Moreover, he endeavoured to find, by comparative experiments, whether the in-

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METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR JANUARY, 1839.

Chiswick.—Jan. 1. Overcast. 2, 3. Cloudy and fine. 4. Rain: clear. 5. Clear and very fine. 6. Overcast: sleet: rain at night, with wind increasing to a hurricane. 7. Boisterous. 8. Clear: slight snow. 9, 10. Frosty. 11. Overcast: rain. 12. Very fine. 13. Cloudy and windy, with slight showers. 14. Rain. 15. Very clear. 16. Fine, but cold. 17, 18. Sharp frost: clear. 19. Stormy and wet: clear at night, with aurora borealis. 20. Fine: rain. 21. Rain. 22. Clear and cold. 23. Overcast and fine. 24. Hazy: fine. 25. Fine. 26. Fine: slight snow. 27. Cloudy and cold. 28. Frosty: slight snow at night. 29. Clear: snow. 30. Sharp frost: slightly overcast: stormy with snow: tempestuous at night. 31. Snowing.

Boston.—Jan. 1. Cloudy. 2. Stormy. 3. Fine: stormy night. 4. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 5. Fine. 6. Fine: snow P.M. 7. Stormy: blew a hurricane all day. 8. Stormy. 9, 10. Fine. 11. Cloudy: rain early A.M.: rain A.M. 12, 13. Cloudy. 14. Fine. 15. Stormy. 16, 17. Fine. 18. Fine: snow P.M. 19. Cloudy: rain early A.M.: rain P.M. 20. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 21. Rain. 22. Fine: snow early A.M. 23, 24. Cloudy. 25. Fine: rain P.M. 26. Cloudy: snow early A.M.: snow P.M. 27. Cloudy: rain A.M. 28. Cloudy. 29. Fine: rain and snow P.M. 30. Fine: rain P.M. 31. Cloudy: large fall of snow early A.M.: more snow in the day, with hail.

Applegarth Manse, Dumfries-shire.—Jan. 1. High wind and sharp showers. 2. Generally clear: occasional showers. 3. Very boisterous. 4. Calmed a little: stormy P.M. 5. Wind strong: snow. 6. Frost and snow: rain P.M. 7. Fearful storm: rain and sleet. 8. More calm: more snow. 9. Frost: snow lying three inches. 10. Thaw: snow melting. 11. Rain moderate: flood. 12. Moderate day: sunshine. 13. Frequent heavy showers. 14. Showery: aurora borealis. 15. Frosty after a boisterous night. 16. Clear frost: wind lulled. 17. Calm and frosty, and sunny. 18. Frost A.M.: rain at night. 19. Temperate: heavy flood. 20. Shower A.M.: still mild. 21. Frost A.M.: increasing P.M. 22. Clear frost: overcast P.M. 23. Frost again: slight thaw P.M. 24. Thaw: a few drops of rain. 25. Fine day, without frost. 26. Fine frosty day. 27. Calm and clear frost. 28. Frost: slight fall of snow. 29. Frost: storm of snow. 30. Frost: snow and high wind. 31. Frost: still snowing: nine inches deep.

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Boston.—Jan. 1. Cloudy. 2. Stormy. 3. Fine: stormy night. 4. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 5. Fine. 6. Fine: snow P.M. 7. Stormy: blew a hurricane all day. 8. Stormy. 9, 10. Fine. 11. Cloudy: rain early A.M.: rain A.M. 12, 13. Cloudy. 14. Fine. 15. Stormy. 16, 17. Fine. 18. Fine: snow P.M. 19. Cloudy: rain early A.M.: rain P.M. 20. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 21. Rain. 22. Fine: snow early A.M. 23, 24. Cloudy. 25. Fine: rain P.M. 26. Cloudy: snow early A.M.: snow P.M. 27. Cloudy: rain A.M. 28. Cloudy. 29. Fine: rain and snow P.M. 30. Fine: rain P.M. 31. Cloudy: large fall of snow early A.M.: more snow in the day, with hail.

Applegarth Manse, Dumfries-shire.—Jan. 1. High wind and sharp showers. 2. Generally clear: occasional showers. 3. Very boisterous. 4. Calmed a little: stormy P.M. 5. Wind strong: snow. 6. Frost and snow: rain P.M. 7. Fearful storm: rain and sleet. 8. More calm: more snow. 9. Frost: snow lying three inches. 10. Thaw: snow melting. 11. Rain moderate: flood. 12. Moderate day: sunshine. 13. Frequent heavy showers. 14. Showery: aurora borealis. 15. Frosty after a boisterous night. 16. Clear frost: wind lulled. 17. Calm and frosty, and sunny. 18. Frost A.M.: rain at night. 19. Temperate: heavy flood. 20. Shower A.M.: still mild. 21. Frost A.M.: increasing P.M. 22. Clear frost: overcast P.M. 23. Frost again: slight thaw P.M. 24. Thaw: a few drops of rain. 25. Fine day, without frost. 26. Fine frosty day. 27. Calm and clear frost. 28. Frost: slight fall of snow. 29. Frost: storm of snow. 30. Frost: snow and high wind. 31. Frost: still snowing: nine inches deep.

fluence of magnesia on vegetation is analogous to that of lime. The following are the conclusions he arrives at: 1st, Native magnesia is not only not injurious to germination, vegetation, and fructification of plants, but on the contrary, appears to be favourable to these functions. 2nd, Magnesia, being soluble in an excess of carbonic acid, has on vegetation an action analogous to that of lime; and when a soil contains magnesia not sufficiently carbonated, this defect may be remedied by the addition of manure, which by its decomposition furnishes the necessary quantity of carbonic acid; the amelioration will be much more efficacious if the soil be frequently disturbed, as then the air will better exercise its action. 3rd, When lime and magnesia exist in arable lands, the former is absorbed in preference by the plants on account of its greater affinity for carbonic acid. 4th, In barren magnesian lands, it is not to the magnesia that the sterility must be attributed, but to the cohesive state of their parts, to the want of manure, of clay, or of other composts, to the large quantity of oxide of iron, &c. 5th, Barren magnesian soils may be rendered fertile by means of calcariferous substances, as rubbish, chalk, ashes, marl, &c., provided the other conditions be fulfilled.—*Journal de Pharmacie de Janvier, 1839.*

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Boston.—Jan. 1. Cloudy. 2. Stormy. 3. Fine: stormy night. 4. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 5. Fine. 6. Fine: snow P.M. 7. Stormy: blew a hurricane all day. 8. Stormy. 9, 10. Fine. 11. Cloudy: rain early A.M.: rain A.M. 12, 13. Cloudy. 14. Fine. 15. Stormy. 16, 17. Fine. 18. Fine: snow P.M. 19. Cloudy: rain early A.M.: rain P.M. 20. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 21. Rain. 22. Fine: snow early A.M. 23, 24. Cloudy. 25. Fine: rain P.M. 26. Cloudy: snow early A.M.: snow P.M. 27. Cloudy: rain A.M. 28. Cloudy. 29. Fine: rain and snow P.M. 30. Fine: rain P.M. 31. Cloudy: large fall of snow early A.M.: more snow in the day, with hail.

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Meteorological Observations made at the Apartments of the Royal Society by the Assistant Secretary, Mr. ROBERTSON; by Mr. THOMPSON at the Garden of the Horticultural Society at Chiswick, near London; by Mr. VELL at London; by Mr. DUNBAR at Applegarth Manse, Dumfries-shire.

Days of Month. 1839. Jan.	Barometer.				Thermometer.				Wind.				Rain.		Dew-point. Lond. Roy. Soc. 9 a.m.	
	London: Roy. Soc. 9 a.m.		Boston. 8½ a.m.		Dumfries-shire. 8½ p.m.		Dumfries-shire. 9 a.m.		London: Roy. Soc. 9 a.m.		Chiswick 9 a.m.		Boston.			Dumfries-shire.
	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.		
1.	30.342	30.391	30.081	29.80	30.00	29.87	40.8	36.2	41.4	36.2	43	44	42	35
2.	30.050	30.102	30.074	29.52	29.96	29.95	45.4	40.8	46.2	40.8	49	42	36	38
3.	29.944	29.958	29.672	29.41	29.70	29.25	45.3	44.2	46.2	44.2	49	40	44½	40
4.	29.530	29.773	29.548	29.41	29.24	29.43	42.0	41.9	47.2	41.9	47	31	43	41
5.	29.682	29.795	29.641	29.42	29.41	29.30	38.4	44.5	35.6	44.5	44	32	34	36
6.	29.718	29.735	29.147	29.30	29.55	28.99	35.7	39.0	34.2	39.0	53	32	31	31
7.	29.072	29.343	29.096	28.42	28.26	29.00	44.4	50.3	35.0	47	32	45	38	37
8.	29.538	29.592	29.526	29.42	29.30	29.40	44.7	39.8	33.6	36	35	28	28	32
9.	29.716	30.210	29.735	29.36	29.78	30.10	34.2	34.2	35.8	29.3	31	27	20	31
10.	30.274	30.304	30.250	29.88	30.08	29.94	32.8	32.8	35.8	29.3	31	28	22	30
11.	30.150	30.181	30.130	29.60	29.80	29.80	42.4	43.2	32.6	50	42	44½	43½	35
12.	30.180	30.232	30.202	29.70	30.09	30.03	47.7	50.0	42.0	51	39	43	40	41
13.	30.020	30.049	29.994	29.45	29.69	29.80	49.8	50.3	42.7	52	41	50	46	41
14.	29.968	29.970	29.781	29.42	29.75	29.63	44.9	51.8	43.2	46	34	41	39	42
15.	29.818	30.033	29.850	29.27	29.68	29.95	36.6	47.7	36.0	44	31	36	36	35
16.	29.944	30.024	29.951	29.55	30.00	30.06	35.3	43.2	33.0	41	26	30	32	32
17.	30.012	30.170	30.045	29.65	30.16	30.20	30.7	40.0	30.6	38	23	29	28	28
18.	30.172	30.204	30.074	29.80	30.19	29.80	29.7	38.0	29.5	44	27	27	21	29
19.	29.572	29.949	29.392	29.10	29.39	29.68	42.9	44.0	29.7	50	29	43½	37	33
20.	30.008	30.038	29.729	29.55	29.82	29.71	38.6	47.8	35.0	51	39	39	37	35
21.	29.658	29.877	29.677	29.80	29.75	30.58	48.7	49.2	38.2	50	32	40	34	33
22.	30.090	30.445	30.112	29.73	30.34	30.58	36.7	49.2	33.7	37	33	32	32½	38
23.	30.530	30.551	30.494	30.15	30.60	30.55	36.2	37.4	34.6	42	36	42	36	33
24.	30.532	30.573	30.308	30.12	30.53	30.40	36.2	40.4	33.7	48	37	36	40	33
25.	30.088	30.108	29.989	29.65	30.13	30.20	43.0	43.8	36.2	49	32	34	29	33
26.	30.156	30.388	30.178	29.87	30.50	30.60	35.3	47.3	34.4	38	30	35	33	37
27.	30.340	30.374	30.246	30.05	30.58	30.42	33.3	37.5	31.6	35	26	36	31	32
28.	30.006	30.064	29.682	29.03	29.74	32.7	35.6	31.6	36	29	32	27	30	28
29.	29.548	29.591	29.155	29.22	29.50	29.29	33.2	37.3	31.6	39	17	29	27	29
30.	29.226	29.284	29.039	28.92	29.23	29.30	27.7	36.0	23.7	34	27	24	26	28
31.	29.150	29.729	29.141	28.83	29.58	29.97	30.5	32.3	25.5	37	22	29	31	23
Mean.	29.904	30.033	29.804	29.49	29.790	30.450	38.2	43.3	34.7	43.74	31.64	36.1	33.6	1.428	1.40	Mean. 33.5

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	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.		
1.	30.342	30.391	30.081	29.80	30.00	29.87	40.8	36.2	41.4	36.2	43	44	42	35
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13.	30.020	30.049	29.994	29.45	29.69	29.80	49.8	50.3	42.7	52	41	50	46	41
14.	29.968	29.970	29.781	29.42	29.75	29.63	44.9	51.8	43.2	46	34	41	39	42
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17.	30.012	30.170	30.045	29.65	30.16	30.20	30.7	40.0	30.6	38	23	29	28	28
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26.	30.156	30.388	30.178	29.87	30.50	30.60	35.3	47.3	34.4	38	30	35	33	32
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28.	30.006	30.064	29.682	29.03	29.74	32.7	35.6	31.6	36	29	32	27	30	28
29.	29.548	29.591	29.155	29.22	29.50	29.29	33.2	37.3	31.6	39	17	29	27	29
30.	29.226	29.284	29.039	28.92	29.23	29.30	27.7	36.0	23.7	34	27	24	26	28
31.	29.150	29.729	29.141	28.83	29.58	29.97	30.5	32.3	25.5	37	22	29	31	23
Mean.	29.904	30.033	29.804	29.49	29.790	30.450	38.2	43.3	34.7	43.74	31.64	36.1	33.6	Mean. 1.428 33.5

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	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.			
1.	30.342	30.391	30.081	29.80	30.00	29.87	40.8	36.2	43	44	42	w.	wsw.	...	35		
2.	30.050	30.102	30.074	29.52	29.96	29.95	45.4	40.8	49	42	36	w.	nw.	...	38		
3.	29.944	29.958	29.672	29.41	29.70	29.25	46.2	44.2	49	40	44½	sw.	wbys.	...	40		
4.	29.530	29.773	29.548	29.41	29.24	29.43	42.0	41.9	47	31	43	w.	calm	...	41		
5.	29.682	29.795	29.641	29.42	29.41	29.30	38.4	35.6	44	32	34	w.	calm	...	36		
6.	29.718	29.735	29.147	29.30	29.55	28.99	35.7	39.0	53	32	31	s.	wbyN	...	31		
7.	29.072	29.343	29.096	28.42	28.26	29.00	44.4	35.0	47	32	35	s.	calm	...	37		
8.	29.538	29.592	29.526	29.42	29.30	29.40	34.7	39.8	35	31	28	w.	wNW.	...	32		
9.	29.716	30.210	29.735	29.36	29.78	30.10	34.2	33.6	36	21	22	nw.	w. N.	...	31		
10.	30.274	30.304	30.250	29.88	30.08	29.94	32.8	29.3	44	31	28	s.	calm	...	30		
11.	30.150	30.181	30.130	29.60	29.80	29.80	42.4	32.6	50	42	44½	s.	calm	...	35		
12.	30.180	30.232	30.202	29.70	30.09	30.03	47.7	42.0	51	39	43	sw.	sw.	...	41		
13.	30.020	30.049	29.994	29.45	29.69	29.80	49.8	50.3	52	41	50	sw.	w.	...	41		
14.	29.968	29.970	29.781	29.42	29.75	29.63	44.9	43.2	46	34	41	sw.	calm	...	42		
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17.	30.012	30.170	30.045	29.65	30.16	30.20	30.7	40.0	38	23	29	wnw.	nw.	...	28		
18.	30.172	30.204	30.074	29.80	30.19	29.80	29.7	38.0	44	27	21	wnw.	nw.	...	29		
19.	29.572	29.949	29.392	29.10	29.39	29.68	42.9	44.0	50	29	43½	sw.	sw.	...	35		
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23.	30.530	30.551	30.494	30.15	30.60	30.55	36.2	37.4	42	33	34	N.	calm	...	33		
24.	30.532	30.573	30.308	30.12	30.53	30.40	36.2	40.4	48	37	36	N.	calm	...	33		
25.	30.088	30.108	29.989	29.65	30.13	30.20	43.0	43.8	49	32	34	sw.	calm	...	32		
26.	30.156	30.388	30.178	29.87	30.50	30.60	35.3	47.3	38	30	35	sw.	calm	...	37		
27.	30.340	30.374	30.246	30.05	30.58	30.42	33.3	37.5	26	36	51	ne.	calm	...	32		
28.	30.006	30.064	29.682	29.03	29.74	32.7	35.6	31.6	36	29	32	ne.	calm	...	28		
29.	29.548	29.591	29.155	29.22	29.50	29.29	33.2	37.3	39	17	29	w.	calm	...	29		
30.	29.226	29.284	29.039	28.92	29.23	29.30	27.7	36.0	34	27	24	sw.	calm	...	28		
31.	29.150	29.729	29.141	28.83	29.58	29.97	30.5	25.5	37	29	31	w.	nw.	...	23		
Mean.	29.904	30.033	29.804	29.49	29.790	30.450	38.2	43.3	43.74	31.64	36.1	33.6	34.7	Sum. 1.428	1.40	Mean. 33.5	

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	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	London: Roy. Soc. 9 a.m.	Chiswick 9 a.m.	Max.	Min.	London: Roy. Soc. 9 a.m.	Chiswick 9 a.m.		
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2.	30.050	30.102	30.074	29.52	29.96	29.95	45.4	40.8	49	42	36	w.	w.	...	38	
3.	29.944	29.958	29.672	29.41	29.70	29.25	46.2	44.2	49	40	44½	sw.	sw.	...	40	
4.	29.530	29.773	29.548	29.41	29.24	29.43	42.0	41.9	47	31	43	w.	w.	...	41	
5.	29.682	29.795	29.641	29.42	29.41	29.30	38.4	35.6	44	32	34	sw.	sw.	...	36	
6.	29.718	29.735	29.147	29.30	29.55	28.99	35.7	39.0	53	32	31	sse.	sw.	...	31	
7.	29.072	29.343	29.096	28.42	28.26	29.00	44.4	34.8	47	32	35	w.	w.	...	37	
8.	29.538	29.592	29.526	29.42	29.30	29.40	44.7	39.8	35	31	28	w.	w.	...	32	
9.	29.716	30.210	29.735	29.36	29.78	30.10	34.2	33.6	36	21	22	sw.	sw.	...	31	
10.	30.274	30.304	30.250	29.88	30.08	29.94	32.8	35.8	34	31	28	s.	sw.	...	30	
11.	30.150	30.181	30.130	29.60	29.80	29.80	42.4	43.2	50	42	44½	sw.	sw.	...	35	
12.	30.180	30.232	30.202	29.70	30.09	30.03	47.7	50.0	51	39	43	sw.	sw.	...	41	
13.	30.020	30.049	29.994	29.45	29.69	29.80	49.8	42.7	52	41	50	sw.	sw.	...	41	
14.	29.968	29.970	29.781	29.42	29.75	29.63	44.9	43.2	46	34	41	sw.	sw.	...	42	
15.	29.818	30.033	29.850	29.27	29.68	29.95	36.6	47.7	44	31	36	w.	w.	...	35	
16.	29.944	30.024	29.951	29.55	30.00	30.06	35.3	43.2	41	26	30	sw.	sw.	...	32	
17.	30.012	30.170	30.045	29.65	30.16	30.20	30.7	40.0	38	23	29	sw.	sw.	...	28	
18.	30.172	30.204	30.074	29.80	30.19	29.80	29.7	38.0	44	27	21	sw.	sw.	...	29	
19.	29.572	29.949	29.392	29.10	29.39	29.68	42.9	44.0	50	29	43½	sw.	sw.	...	33	
20.	30.008	30.038	29.729	29.55	29.82	29.71	38.6	47.8	51	39	39	sw.	sw.	...	35	
21.	29.658	29.877	29.677	29.80	29.75	30.58	48.7	49.4	50	32	40	sw.	sw.	...	33	
22.	30.090	30.445	30.112	29.73	30.34	30.58	36.7	49.2	33	40	34	sw.	sw.	...	38	
23.	30.530	30.551	30.494	30.15	30.60	30.55	36.2	37.4	33	32	32½	sw.	sw.	...	33	
24.	30.532	30.573	30.308	30.12	30.53	30.40	36.2	40.4	48	37	36	sw.	sw.	...	33	
25.	30.088	30.108	29.989	29.65	30.13	30.20	43.0	43.8	49	32	34	sw.	sw.	...	33	
26.	30.156	30.388	30.178	29.87	30.50	30.60	35.3	47.3	38	30	35	sw.	sw.	...	37	
27.	30.340	30.374	30.246	30.05	30.58	30.42	33.3	37.5	26	36	31	sw.	sw.	...	32	
28.	30.006	30.064	29.682	29.03	29.74	32.7	35.6	31.6	36	29	32	sw.	sw.	...	28	
29.	29.548	29.591	29.155	29.22	29.50	29.29	33.2	37.3	39	17	29	sw.	sw.	...	29	
30.	29.226	29.284	29.039	28.92	29.23	29.30	27.7	36.0	34	27	24	sw.	sw.	...	28	
31.	29.150	29.729	29.141	28.83	29.58	29.97	30.5	25.5	37	29	31	sw.	sw.	...	23	
Mean.	29.904	30.033	29.804	29.49	29.790	30.450	38.2	43.3	43.74	31.64	36.1	sw.	sw.	...	Mean.	
									34.7	43.74	33.6	sw.	sw.	...	33.5	